



ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING
State Form 55860 (R / 10-15)
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
IC 4-2-6-9

MAY 22 2020

FILED

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (last) Watts	Name (first) Brian	Name (middle) J.
Name of office or agency Indiana State Board of Education		Job title Board Member - Chair
Address of office (number and street) 143 W. Market Street		City Indianapolis
		ZIP code 46204
Office telephone number (317) 232-2000	Office e-mail address (required) bj.watts@evsck12.com	

Describe the conflict of interest:
Mr. Watts is currently employed as the Executive Director of Opportunities through Partnerships that Transform & Inspire ("OptIN"), which is affiliated with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation ("EVSC"). IC 20-49-4-11 permits school corporations to submit an application for an advance from the common school fund to be used for educational technology programs. Those applications are submitted to and ultimately approved by the Indiana State Board of Education. See IC 20-49-4-8.

Indiana Code 4-2-6-9 (Conflict of Economic Interest; Commission Advisory Opinions; Disclosure Statement; Written Determinations) states in relevant part:

(a) A state officer, an employee, or a special state appointee may not participate in any decision or vote, or matter relating to that decision or vote, if the state officer, employee, or special state appointee has knowledge that any of the following has a financial interest in the outcome of the matter:

(3) A business organization in which the state officer, employee, or special state appointee is serving as an officer, a director, a member, a trustee, a partner, or an employee.

During the May 13, 2020 Board meeting, a consent agenda item labeled "E. Common School Loans", which included a loan in the form of an advancement from the Common School Fund for EVSC, was presented to the Board. Due to Mr. Watts' affiliation with EVSC, which had a financial interest in the outcome of the matter, Mr. Watts recused himself from the Board's vote with respect to the Common School Loans.

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: *(Attach additional pages as needed.)*

The Board's ethics officer routinely reviews all materials before they are presented to the Board to identify potential conflicts of interest for Board members. Additionally, Board members are required to engage in ethics training on regular basis as required by state law. This training ensures Board members are able to identify potential ethics issues that may arise in their official capacity as special state appointees.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Date signed (month, day, year)

5/19/2020

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brian J. Watts

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Date signed (month, day, year)

Chad E. Ranney

5/19/2020

Printed full name of ethics officer

Chad E. Ranney

From: Ranney, Chad E
To: Murphy, Brian (SBOE)
Subject: FW: Ethics Disclosure - Common School Loans - Recusal from Vote
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020 1:14:00 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image004.png

Brian,

Please see the info below. As you're now aware, BJ recused himself from the vote at the meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Chad E. Ranney

General Counsel

Sr. Director – Policy & Legislative Affairs

Indiana State Board of Education

(O) 317.232.7637 | www.in.gov/sboe | F: 317.234.8726

143 W. Market, Suite 500, Indianapolis, IN 46204



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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From: Ranney, Chad E
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Watts, BJ <bj.watts@evsck12.com>
Subject: Ethics Disclosure - Common School Loans - Recusal from Vote

Good afternoon, BJ.

I just spoke with Brian, and he mentioned that you will be recusing yourself from the vote on Consent Agenda Item E (Common School Loans) during tomorrow's meeting due to the fact that Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation is one of the corporations that has requested a loan. Once I get your disclosure form finished up, I'll send it over for your review and signature.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Chad E. Ranney

General Counsel

Sr. Director – Policy & Legislative Affairs

Indiana State Board of Education

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